

Remarks and Arguments:

Upon entry of the instant amendment claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-16 19-23 are pending. All the claims stand rejected under 35 USC s 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,655,851) in view of Edwards et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,200,040).

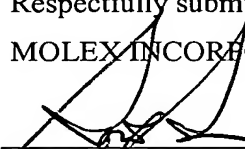
Applicants have closely studied the cited references and are completely flummoxed as to their applicability in the instant case. In particular, Lee is cited as the primary reference. However, Lee does NOT teach, suggest or imply a key ring fixed in any position using an **adhesive**. Lee specifically teaches that the key ring 52 is cammed forward by the sloping surface of a ridge 50 (Lee, col.4, ll. 53-58). Clearly a ridge does not suggest or teach adhesive.

Similarly, the citation of Edwards is equally baffling. Applicants do not understand how the illustration of a key (Figs. 3 and 9) teaches or suggests a partial keyway. In fact, the illustration of the keyway actually shows a full keyway opening (Edwards, Fig. 12) for receiving the key. As such, applicants respectfully submit that Edwards actually teaches away from Applicant's invention.

In light of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that the final rejection be withdrawn and that the instant case is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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